



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Area Nursing Student Receives Scholarships

New Haven- On April 19, 2007, five area nursing school students from Gateway Community College, Sacred Heart University, Southern Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University, and Yale University School of Nursing will receive one of five *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* scholarships. The event will be held the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT's (VNA/SCC) One Long Wharf Drive office in New Haven at 4:00 PM.

Danielle Huseman, Sacred Heart University

According to Dr. Kathleen Fries, Director, Undergraduate Nursing Program, Huseman was chosen for the Nightingale Scholarship because she “exemplifies qualities of outstanding nursing practice and demonstrates exceptional leadership ability and potential, is active in community service and shows professionalism in her clinical courses.” Huseman is currently serving as a class representative for Sacred Heart's Student Nurses Association and assisted in preparing and carrying out the SNA's first ever blood drive.

Cathryn Imperato, Yale University School of Nursing

Imperato has based her nursing career in Gynecologic, Obstetric and Family care. A National Merit Scholar, Imperato is currently a Masters of Science Candidate in Women's Health and Primary Care. Her involvement, both professionally and as a volunteer for Planned Parenthood and The Nathan Smith Clinic at Yale-New Haven Hospital have greatly increased Imperato's nursing skills and passion for her profession.

Jennifer Landi, Quinnipiac University

Landi, an accelerated nursing student with a background as a dietician, is a quick learner who is well liked by her peers. According to Lisa O'Connor, Director of Quinnipiac University's Nursing Program, "her (Landi's) holistic approach to patient care and maturity make her stand out in the program." Landi has accepted a position at New Britain General Hospital and is looking forward to starting her nursing career.

Lynnette Strobel, Southern Connecticut State University

Strobel, was drawn to nursing after a life altering experience- helping her father die peacefully at home. Guided by the care, compassion and expertise of a homecare nurse named JoAnn, Strobel, her mother and siblings worked together to provide hospice care to her father in rural Montana, where traditional services were not readily available. Strobel recalls this difficult time with admiration and respect for JoAnn. "As a future nurse I hope that someday I can make a difference to someone, just like JoAnn did for my family," Strobel wrote in a recent essay about her reason for choosing the nursing profession.

Valrie Thompson, Gateway Community College

Thompson has overcome many barriers in achieving her dream of becoming a registered nurse, she remains focused to succeed with grace and professionalism. According to her instructors, Thompson has the ability to translate classroom material into the clinical arena while providing support and assistance to her peers. The Gateway faculty have received much praise from patients and Thompson's fellow students on her gentle and graceful approach to care.

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* was created in 2001 to both celebrate and elevate the profession of nursing. The event has generated enough funds to offer financial support to nursing students. Joanne Walsh President and CEO of the VNA/SCC stated that, "Awarding scholarships to area nursing schools, will provide support and recognition to the future nurses." She added, "These students show great potential in becoming future nominees of the *Nightingale Award for Excellence in Nursing*." The other four \$1,000 scholarship recipients are from Gateway Community College, Sacred Heart University, Yale University and Southern Connecticut State University.

Official sponsors of the Nightingale event include: Gaylord Hospital, Inc., Griffin Hospital, Hospital of St. Raphael, Masonicare, Inc., VNA/SCC and Yale-New Haven Hospital. More information about the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing event is available online at www.nightingaleawardsct.org. ###